

Clinical Reading Questions #1

HST 190: Introduction to Biostatistics

These discussion questions are based on Kluytmans-van Den Bergh et al. (2020).

1. Identify the main research question of the study.
2. Who are the subjects in this study, and how many are included?
3. What variables are collected in the study? Identify each variable as numerical or categorical. If numerical, state whether the variable is discrete or continuous. If categorical, state whether the variable is ordinal.
4. How were these variables collected?
5. Are there any possible sources of bias in the data collection mechanism?
6. How do the authors use the following tools discussed in our reading? What alternatives might have been used?
 - a. Median
 - b. IQR
 - c. Histogram
 - d. Scatterplot
7. What other relationships between variables might be interesting to investigate? What tools could you use to visualize or otherwise describe such relationships?
8. How “generalizable” do you think the findings in this paper are? That is, beyond the sample what larger populations might these results apply to, or not apply to? (e.g., to other hospital workers in Netherlands, hospital workers in the US, other people of similar age, etc.)
9. What policy changes do the authors propose based on the findings? Do you find these conclusions reasonable?

References

Kluytmans-van Den Bergh, Marjolein F Q, Anton G M Buiting, Suzan D Pas, Robbert G Bentvelsen, Wouter Van Den Bijllaardt, Anne J G Van Oudheusden, Miranda M L Van Rijen, Jaco J Verweij, Marion P G Koopmans, and Jan A J W Kluytmans. 2020. “Prevalence and Clinical Presentation of Health Care Workers with Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Two Dutch Hospitals During an Early Phase of the Pandemic.” *JAMA Network Open* 3 (5): e209673. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.9673>.